

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a country in the Middle East. It is rich in history and culture that dates back thousands of years. The country is fortunate to have many natural resources, and its location made it an ideal stopover for the silk trade.

For centuries, Afghanistan was ruled by kings. In the 20th century, it was colonized by other countries like Great Britain and Russia. There were also several civil wars because of political, tribal, and religious differences. Soldiers from the United States came as peacekeeping forces sanctioned by the United Nations. Many Afghans helped the US troops in office work, patrol, combat, interpreting, and much more. Because of the war, millions of innocent people fled to nearby countries for safety. Many lives were lost, from soldiers and non-soldiers.

Volunteer Opportunities: If you are interested in culture, diversity, and community engagement, or simply want to assist refugees starting their new lives in our community, please contact:

Commonwealth Catholic Charities
820 Campbell Avenue, Roanoke 24016
Telephone: 540-342-7561

Produced by the Roanoke Refugee Mental Health Council. More at:
www.dbhds.virginia.gov/professionals-and-service-providers/oclc/oclc-focus-areas/refugee-mh/roanoke-council

My name is Taiba

By: Roanoke Refugee Mental Health Council

Hello, my name is Taiba and I am nine years old. My family comes from Afghanistan and we live in a large compound in the countryside with all my relatives. Girls in Afghanistan, especially in rural areas, are not allowed to go to school or do many other things to participate in society.

My father works as an interpreter for the United States Army. He helps people or groups talk to each other even if they speak different languages.

Some people who don't like America want to hurt us, so because of his job, our family decided to come to America on a special immigrant visa. In Roanoke, I go to school and learn English, but my favorite subject is science. I am also taking ballet lessons on weekends. Someday, I want to be a doctor! America is my new home.



Taiba is a fictional character. Any resemblance is a coincidence and not intentional.

Coloring Activity

